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watchfulness of the sailors contrasts well with the sleep that wraps up all other living things. But what must we read then? Merkel reads ναύπλοι, after Porson (in Eur. Phoen. 849). This is an easy correction, but no better has been proposed hitherto.

R. C. SEATON.

ON βληχρός AND ἀβληχρός.

There is little doubt that the ἀ- in ἀβληχρός is euphonic, and that ἀβλ. and βλ. are the same word and connected both in form and meaning with μαλακός and ἀμαλός (where also we have ἀ- euphonic), see Curt. §457. Only ἀβληχρός is found in Homer, as epithet of χείρ E 337, of τείχεα Θ 178, of θάνατος λ 135 = ψ 282 "mild, gentle." βληχρός is found in Pindar (frag. 107 Bergk) βληχροὶ δνοφεράς νυκτὸς ποταμοί, where it is usually taken as meaning "sluggish" and compared with Horace's *ater flumine languido Cocytus errans*; in Alcaeus epithet of ἄνεμοι, in Hippocrates as a technical word of πυρετός and σφυγμός, and Plut. (Pericl. 38) has βληχρὰ νόσφ. Again, we read in Ap. Rh. IV 152:

οἶον ὅτε βληχροῖσι κυλινδόμενον πελάγεσσιν  
κῦμα μέλαν κωφὸν τε καὶ ἄβρομον,

where βλ. has apparently the same meaning as in Pindar quoted, and there appears to be a reminiscence of Ξ 16, ὡς δ' ὅτε πορφύρῃ πέλαγος μέγα κύματι κωφῷ κ. τ. λ.; comp. Virgil's *languentis pelagi* (Aen. X 289), which refers, however, to the ebbing of the tide.

However, we find also quite the opposite meaning given by grammarians. Thus Etym. Magn. 200, 14, among several childish etymologies refers to Pindar for βληχρός, ισχυρός, which may or may not be the passage above quoted, and on Ap. Rh. II 205, where it is said of Phineus ἀβληχρῷ δ' ἐπὶ κώματι κέκλιτ' ἄνανδος. Schol. has ἀσθενποιῶ, ἀσθενεῖ κατὰ στέρησιν τοῦ βληχροῦ. This interpretation is doubtless correct, but the etymology has arisen from ignorance that βληχρός and ἀβληχρός are the same word. Just as in Latin the epithet *languidus* is easily transferred, by a process of language too familiar to need illustration, to that which produces *languor*, and we find, accordingly, *languida quies* (Aen. XII 908), so ἀβληχρόν is a natural epithet of κῶμα. Again, compare Ap. Rh. IV 621:

ἤματα μὲν στρέυνοντο περιβληχρόν βαρύθοντες  
ὀδμῇ λευγαλεῇ.

Here Merkel translates περιβληχρόν "graviter" (in the sense of

*ισχυρός*), and says “aut alternavit vocabuli sensum Apollonius aut scripsit ἀβλήχρῳ δ' ἐπὶ κώματι.” Such an alternation of meaning is just the sort of pedantry that Apollonius loves, but it appears to me that here Ap. is not guilty and that Beck is more correct in translating “languide gravati odore tristi.” The result seems to be, then, that there is no real trace of *βληχρός* = *ισχυρός* in Greek literature, but it has arisen from a non-recognition of the fact that ἀβληχρός and βληχρός are the same word, and that in the passage of Pindar quoted βλ. = *ισχυρός* does not happen to make nonsense.

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